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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002712

SIPDIS

USUN FOR STOFER, REPASCH, ATWOOL

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TAGS: [PREL](#), [AORC](#), [NL](#), [UNGA](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/EU/UNGA: DUTCH PLANS FOR UN WORKING
GROUP OCTOBER 25

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Schofer for reasons 1.4 (b) a
nd (d).

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: UN Funding, UN security, and the 2005 "Major Event" will dominate the EU's UN Working Group (CONUN) meeting on October 25, according to its chair, Karel van Kesteren. Other issues on the agenda include a discussion of regional groupings, the social dimension of globalization, the SIDS conference, and WSIS. Please see guidance request at paragraph four. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) In a meeting with Poloff on October 19, Karel van Kesteren, head of the Dutch MFA's Department of International Organization Affairs and current chair of the EU's UN Working Group (CONUN), briefly discussed the agenda for the October 25 CONUN meeting. Items to be discussed include:

3. (C) The 2005 Major Event: The EU is discussing how best to implement the so-called millennium development goals and the Millennium Declaration. During the Dutch presidency of the EU, according to van Kesteren, the economic counselor at the Dutch mission in New York will be the main focal point for coordinating EU guidance on this event.

4. (C) Security/Safety of UN Staff: Van Kesteren referred to the SYG's report and said the sticking point is money and who will pay the expected USD 100 million bill. He asked for clarification of the USG preferences for financing security operations for UN staff, i.e., would we prefer a) centralized financial administration for all UN security operations, or b) control at the level of the operation where costs are shared among those member states involved? (Post would appreciate guidance on how to respond to these questions.)

5. (C) Financing of the multilateral system: Van Kesteren said he added this point to the agenda to encourage reflection and discussion on "the chaotic state of UN financing," looking at the nexus between assessed and voluntary contributions across all agencies. The objective, he said, is to find ways to make funding "more rational." He added that the CONUN should explore how the UN can free itself from the excessive influence of earmarked donations supporting member states' favorite causes, especially when these do not appear rational in the context of the UN's larger picture.

6. (C) Heads of UN Organizations, candidatures: Van Kesteren said the EU still had no new names for a successor to UNRWA's Hansen and he will raise the issue again.

7. (C) Discussion of regional groups: Van Kesteren said this topic is the initiative of the EU Commission, which wants to discuss the problems that arise from the fact that some EU member states are WEOG members and others are Eastern European Group members, notably in cases where regional groups are used, e.g., in the area of environmental treaties, to coordinate substantive positions.

8. (SBU) Other Issues: Van Kesteren expected cursory review of the remaining agenda items, which include reception of the report on the social dimension of globalization, the SIDS Conference, and WSIS.

SOBEL